



SALEM SHERIFF'S OFFICE ACHIEVES PERFECT ACCREDITATION MARKS

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Remember what it felt like to get a test back with 100 written at the top?

The City of Salem Sheriff's Office experienced that pride evoking sensation this month as the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission gave it a perfect score during its accreditation review process.

"Having other law enforcement officials from across the state come in, offer suggestions, look through our files and make us accountable to the professional standards just makes us all better," says Salem City Sheriff Ric Atkins. "But there's no way you can ever bank on having a perfect score."

Being able to make it through the incredibly detailed "white glove" test that is applied to everything from personnel to uniforms to vehicles to records is a rare occurrence. Salem is just the fourth agency in the Commonwealth ever to earn a perfect score from the assessors.

"Our folks like to set the bar high and our staff really takes pride in going above these accreditation standards when it comes to serving the citizens of Salem," says Sheriff Atkins. "We're accountable to each other, our sister law enforcement agencies and most importantly we're accountable to the citizens who pay our salaries."

The Salem Sheriff's Office was originally accredited in 2005. To maintain that level of excellence, the office must submit annual reports that substantiate ongoing compliance and then go through a reaccreditation evaluation every four years. Of the 360 law enforcement agencies in Virginia, only 72 have achieved VLEPSC accredited status

"They were impressed with the agency as a whole," says Chief Deputy David Rorer. "This city is a team playing city and I think this accreditation shows that it's a championship city inside and out that works for the common goals of bringing the very best level of municipal services to our citizens and hospitality to our guests."

It took the accreditation team less than two days to determine that the Salem Sheriff's Office was in compliance with all 728 topics in the 187 areas of review.

Founded in 1993, the purpose of the Commission is to promote excellence in the delivery of law enforcement and criminal justice services through agency adherence and demonstrated compliance to standards crafted by criminal justice professionals. The cornerstone of the standards is found in the Code of Virginia.

The Salem Sheriff's office will be joined by other law enforcement agencies from around the state for an accreditation ceremony this Wednesday at 1:30pm at the Salem Civic Center. The event is open to the public.

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